

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **SAN LUIS RESERVOIR WELCOMES BACK THE LOCAL MUTSUN PEOPLE FOR THEIR FOURTH FALL GATHERING**

MERCED COUNTY--- Learn how the local Native Americans lived in California before the discovery of gold. The public is invited to San Luis Reservoir on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004 for the Fourth Annual Native California Peoples' Fall Gathering. The event is located off of Highway 152 at the San Luis Creek Recreation Area exit, between Los Banos and Gilroy, and lasts from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. The cost is just \$6 per vehicle (admission is free).

The event will feature authentic demonstrations of how to make shell bead necklaces, baskets, soap root brushes, miniature tule boats, and much more. There will also be California Indian Dancers and traditional storytelling. Indian Arts and Crafts will be for sale, as will hamburgers, hot dogs, tamales, etc.

This will be the Fourth Annual Fall Gathering at the park. Previous years' events were well attended and enjoyed by all. Park Superintendent Dennis Imhoff says "We welcome having the Mutsun Native Peoples' Fourth Annual Fall Gathering and are delighted to have them share their skills with our park visitors. Please join us on Saturday October 16<sup>th</sup> and explore California's Native American heritage." The Mutsun Language Foundation has planned and coordinated the entire event, and its members are donating their time for the demonstrations. The event runs from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., with many demonstrations happening between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The Mutsun Ohlone / Costanoan Indians historically lived in the area that stretched from the Monterey coast, east, over Pacheco Pass, and many of their descendants are working to keep their traditional practices and language alive. This year's event is sponsored by the Mutsun Language Foundation, the Four Rivers Natural History Association, and California State Parks.

Photos of last year's event are available from Jennifer Morgan. Visitors with disabilities who need special assistance should contact Ms. Morgan (TTY Relay Service 711) by October 8<sup>th</sup>. (For more information please see: [jmorg@parks.ca.gov](mailto:jmorg@parks.ca.gov) or [mutsunlanguage.com](http://mutsunlanguage.com) or [parks.ca.gov/events](http://parks.ca.gov/events))

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